

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 302

SECRET MANILA 14227

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EXDIS

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
ROMULO

FOR HABIB FROM SULLIVAN

REF: STATE 229228

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN THAT GOP MAY GIVE APPEARANCE
OF SEEKING TO SHIFT FOCUS FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS TO
WASHINGTON. IT IS CLEAR THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE CONTRARY
TO OUR UNDERSTANDINGS WITH MARCOS THAT ROMULO MEETING WITH
SECRETARY WOULD BE INFORMAL SESSION DESIGNED TO DISCUSS
BASIC ISSUES.

2. IN MY OWN JUDGMENT, DISPATCH OF ENRILE AND MILITARY
BACKUP TEAM DOES NOT RPT NOT CONSTITUTE DEPARTURE FROM
ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDINGS. THERE IS VERY LITTLE LIKELIHOOD
THAT MARCOS WOULD EVER PERMIT THE ULTIMATE NEGOTIATIONS
TO TAKE PLACE ANYWHERE EXCEPT IN MANILA AND ESSENTIALLY
BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE SECRETARY.

3. TRAVEL OF ENRILE AND MILITARY TEAM (THEY LEFT MANILA
FOR WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 15) REFLECTS BASIC MILITARY
DISTRUST OF ROMULO'S CAPABILITIES AND UNCERTAINTY THAT
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ROMUALDEZ WILL TAKE HARD ENOUGH LINE ON "BASIC ISSUES".

ENRILE HAS THEREFORE BEEN SENT ALONG TO INSURE THAT SECRETARY DOES NOT OVERWHELM ROMULO. ENRILE, IN TURN, HAS PROBABLY ASKED THE MILITARY TEAM TO ACCOMPANY HIM BECAUSE HE DOES NOT FEEL SUFFICIENTLY ACQUAINTED WITH ALL THE DETAILS AND WANTS TO AVOID MILITARY CRITICISM OF ANY POSITIONS HE MAY TAKE.

4. I EXPECT THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD JOIN ROMULO AND ROMUALDEZ IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY WOULD BE ENRILE HIMSELF. THE COLONELS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN BACKGROUND, MUCH AS THEY HAVE DONE HERE IN MANILA. THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU HAVE SOME INDICATIONS WHICH I HAVE NOT RECEIVED, I DOUBT I NEED TO "CONVEY TO GOP THAT WE DO NOT PLAN TO SHIFT FOCUS FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS." IF YOU NEVERTHELESS FEEL SOME NEED TO GET THIS POINT ACROSS, PROBABLY THE BEST INTERLOCUTORS ARE EITHER ROMUALDEZ OR ROMULO, HIMSELF, SINCE HE WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK SEPT. 17.

5. IF I AM TO RETURN FOR SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING, I WOULD HOPE TO HAVE TWO OR THREE DAYS DISCUSSION WITH YOU AND OTHERS IN ADVANCE OF THAT SESSION TO GIVE YOU SOME ASSESSMENTS I HAVE NOT PUT IN WRITTEN FORM. SULLIVAN

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decapton Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA14227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760349-0598
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760954/aaaabtuj.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 76 STATE 229228
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ROMULO FOR HABIB FROM SULLIVAN
TAGS: MARR, RP, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (ROMULO, CARLOS P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006